In the case of Amildars, who are already acting as Assistant Commissioners and who have not yet fully qualified themselves, they should be informed that they will not be continued even on an acting tenure for long periods.

By Order,
B. T. KESAVIENGAR,
Chief Secretary to Government.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

Reviews the reports on the working of the Town and Minor Municipal Councils in the State for the year 1937-38.

READ—

The Reports on the working of the several Town and Minor Municipal Councils in the State for the year 1937-38 and the reviews of the Deputy Commissioners of Districts thereon.

ORDER NO. L. 7150-62—ML. 116-38-15, DATED BANGALORE, THE 4TH MARCH 1939.

Recorded.

2. There were 40 Town and 64 Minor Municipalities as in the previous year. The boundaries of Dodballapur and Hiriyur Municipalities were extended. The municipal councils of Channapatna, Mugur, Honnali and Tirthahalli continued to be superseded. A municipal council has since been reconstituted for Honnali.

3. *Reconstitution of Municipal Councils.*—Sixteen municipal councils were reconstituted during the year. Bye-elections were held in nineteen municipalities, the vacancies having been caused by a strict enforcement of the provisions of the Municipal Acts relating to Municipal Councillors being deemed as having vacated their seats as a result of their failing to pay arrears of municipal taxes, even after the issue of special notices. In the case of Kankanhalli, Dodballapur, Magadi, Sarjapur and Anekal, no bye-elections were held as the required number of candidates who stood for election was only equal to the number to be elected. Elections for the offices of Vice-Presidents were held in all the reconstituted municipalities.

4. *Strength of Municipal Councils and Meetings.*—The total number of members of all the municipal councils on the last day of the year was 1,730, of whom 1,181 were elected, 347 were non-officials nominated by Government and 202 were *ex-officio* members. The total number of meetings held by the municipal councils was 1,827 of which 1,037 were ordinary, 596 special and 194 adjourned meetings. The number of meetings held in some municipal councils in the districts of Mysore and Kadur, fell short of the prescribed minimum, while in others, the number of adjourned meetings was large. The attendance of both the official and non-official members at the meetings of the municipal councils is reported to be fairly satisfactory, although there is room for further improvement.

5. *Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Chief Officers.*—The municipal councils of Tumkur, Tiptur, Malur and Jagalur continued to have elected non-official Presidents. The Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Kadur District Treasury continued to be the President of the Chikmagalur Town Municipality. All the Town (except Chikmagalur) and the Minor Municipal Councils had elected Vice-Presidents. Orders were passed forming a separate cadre for Chief Officers and Assessing Officers. The Town Municipal Councils of Davangere, Chikmagalur, Shimoga, Tumkur, Chikballapur, Seringapatam, Nanjangud, Channapatna and Mandya continued to have Chief Officers. A Chief Officer has since been appointed for the Sagar Town Municipality.

6. *Committees.*—Government regret to observe that, in spite of the repeated observations made in the reviews of the previous years, there has been no improvement in the working of Committees. It is necessary that all the Town Municipal

Councils should constitute essential committees and insist on their meeting regularly in the interests of quick despatch of municipal business. The Deputy Commissioners of Districts are requested to instruct the Presidents of Town Municipalities to take necessary action in this direction.

7. *Rules and Bye-laws.*—The following rules were issued by Government:—

(1) Empowering all Town Municipal Councils to take action to prescribe the regular line of public streets.

(2) Regarding the grant of leave to the menial employees in the Sanitary, Conservancy and Engineering Departments of the several municipalities.

(3) Requiring candidates standing for election in Minor Municipal Councils to deposit Rs. 25.

(4) Requiring the registration of lease deeds executed by the shandy and market contractors in favour of Municipalities and District Boards.

(5) Prescribing the procedure to be adopted to prevent the construction of buildings on road margins.

(6) Requiring sale certificates for sites sold in municipalities to be duly stamped.

Rules (1) regulating water-supply in Konanur Minor Municipality, (2) the levy of lighting tax in Channapatna and Bhadravati, and (3) water-tax in Bhadravati and Shikarpur Municipalities were sanctioned.

Bye-laws were sanctioned for the (1) licensing of dogs in the Shimoga Town Municipality; (2) the numbering and registration of vehicles in Chitaldrug and Chamarajnagar; (3) the compulsory registration of marriages in Tumkur, Chiknayakanhalli and Davangere; (4) the regulation of water-supply in Closepet and Mandya; (5) the regulation of slaughterhouses in Channapatna; (6) the issue of licenses for regulating hotels in Closepet; (7) the levy of octroi in Madhugiri, Seringapatam, Mandya and Chamarajnagar; and (8) the regulation and inspection of municipal markets in Arsikere and Hassan Town Municipalities.

As pointed out in the review last year, it is necessary that the Town Municipal Councils should, under Section 49 of the Town Municipalities Act, get the rules and bye-laws printed and make them available for sale to the public. As it came to the notice of Government that the rules and bye-laws framed by certain Town Municipal Councils were not strictly in conformity with law, the Deputy Commissioners were requested to advise the municipal councils concerned to take necessary action to set them right.

8. *Finance and Incidence of Taxation.*—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 3,94,318. The income and expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 18,88,999 (Rs. 18,28,188) and Rs. 18,35,351 (Rs. 18,36,126) respectively. The closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 4,54,829. Government regret to observe that the financial condition of several municipal councils continued to be unsatisfactory and they were not able to maintain the prescribed minimum balance. The municipal councils should observe the strictest possible economy and restrict the expenditure only to obligatory items. The average incidence of taxation per head of population ranged from Rs. 5-10-6 in Koppa Minor Municipality to Re. 0-4-2 in Talkad Minor Municipality. The revision of assessment on buildings and lands was completed in all the municipalities, except in seven minor municipalities in the Mysore District and two municipalities in the Chitaldrug District where the work is under progress.

9. *Demand, Collection and Balance.*—Out of a total demand of Rs. 20,42,031 during the year including the arrears, a sum of Rs. 16,14,499 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,27,582 as against Rs. 4,26,881 at the end of the previous year. The percentage of collection to the demand including the arrears was the highest in the Hassan District, being 87·5 per cent and the lowest in Bangalore District, being 63·25. As compared with the figures of demand of last year, a slight increase is noticeable due to the revision of assessment on buildings and lands being given effect to in several municipalities. Special staff was employed for the collection of arrears of taxes in several municipalities. Although there has been a slight improvement in the collection as a whole, compared with that of last year, the total arrears have increased. The collection work was reported to be hampered owing to the prevalence of plague in some municipalities in Kolar and Mysore Districts. It is also reported that in some municipalities, *e. g.*, the Birur Town Municipality, no systematic action was taken to recover the taxes. The Saklespur Town Municipal Council has, as usual, collected the entire demand under assessed taxes. The

percentage of collection to demand was more then 90 in the following municipalities :—

			Rs.
1.	Koppa	... ...	99·4
2.	Kadur	... ...	99·4
3.	Chikballapur	... ...	91
4.	Bagepalli	... ...	92
5.	Sringeri	... ...	91·4

The arrears are more than Rs. 10,000 in the following Municipalities :—

			Rs.
1.	Davangere	... ...	24,394
2.	Shimoga	... ...	17,513
3.	Haribar	... ...	12,522
4.	Hassan	... ...	12,518
5.	Tumkur	... ...	17,609
6.	Kolar	... ...	10,771
7.	Chikmagalur	... ...	12,135
8.	Closepet	... ...	12,239
9.	Channapatna	... ...	16,176
10.	Nanjangud	... ...	11,527
11.	Hunsur	... ...	11,735

The municipal councils should be instructed to take prompt action for the realisation of the recoverable arrears. Government desire to impress on all the municipal councils, the importance of collection work as the basic factor for successful administration. Such of the municipal councils as have not already got a Chief Officer are also advised to consider the question of appointing Chief Officers with a view to see that the collection work is speeded up.

10. *Town Improvement Works.*—Government made a grant of Rs. 2,63,000 for water supply and other improvement works in towns during the year.

11. *Drainage.*—A comprehensive drainage scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 88,380 was sanctioned for Dodballapur and Government contributed a sum of Rs. 6,650 towards the first stage of the scheme. The drainage schemes in Davangere, Tumkur, Jagalur, Arsikere, Goribidnur, Chikballapur and Chamarajnagar were in progress. Similar schemes for Chikmagalur, Tarikere, Hassan, Molakalmuru, Saklespur, Sagar, Hole-Narsipur, Belur, Nanjangud and Gundlupet were under consideration.

12. *Water Supply.*—The water-supply works at Ganjam, Hoskote, Melkote, Nagamangala and Mandya were completed. Water-supply schemes to Sagar, Krishnarajnagar, Shikarpur, Davangere and Saklespur Municipalities and improvements to the existing works at Chikmagalur, Kolar and Shimoga were sanctioned. A revised estimate for the water-supply to Hassan Town was sanctioned for Rs. 1,26,210. The bore-wells in Sarjapur, Ajjampur and Hosnagar were completed. The improvements of water-supply in Tumkur, Belur, Channarayapatna, Bowringpet and Arkalgud were under active consideration. In order to enable the Municipal Councils to meet their share of the cost, loans were sanctioned to the Municipal Councils of Hassan, Shikarpur, Davangere, Chikmagalur, Kolar and Shimoga.

13. *Public Health and Sanitation.*—Public health was generally good during the year except for occasional outbreaks of plague, cholera and small-pox in a few places. The municipal councils are reported to have adopted the necessary preventive and precautionary measures to check the spread of the diseases. Antimalaria measures were adopted in Chikmagalur, Bhadravati, Shimoga and Mandya Municipalities. Baby Shows were held in Krishnarajapet, Heggaddevankote, Ajjampur and Narasimharajapur Municipalities. Maternity Homes were opened in Thyamagondlu and Nelamangala. The Maternity Ward and Child Welfare Centre at Sira and the Maternity Ward at Turuvekere commenced work during the year.

With a view to enable the municipalities to attend more efficiently to the work of sanitation, the sanitary maistries who are not well qualified for the task are being replaced in such municipalities by Assistant Sanitary Inspectors who have passed out of the Sanitary Inspectors' School.

14. *Public Safety and Convenience.*—In order to prevent the dust nuisance, tarring of Doddapet in Shimoga Town was undertaken. The question of tarring

important State Fund Roads running through the municipal limits of certain towns is under consideration.

The electrification schemes of Hunsur, Krishnarajnagar and T.-Narsipur were completed. The electrification of Davangere and Belur was sanctioned. Proposals for the electrification of Belakawadi, Mirle, Chamarajnagar, Tiptur and Kunigal are under active consideration. Electrification schemes for other municipalities are under preparation.

Five units of houses were constructed in the Chitaldrug Town for the housing of the poor.

The construction of a combined Dispensary and of a Veterinary Dispensary at Chamarajnagar was sanctioned. The Municipal High School sanctioned for Mandya Town began work during the year. Cattle Shows were held in Malvalli, Saligrama and Maddur Municipalities.

15. *Audit of Accounts.*—The accounts of all the municipalities for 1936-37 are reported to have been inspected by the Local Audit Department staff of the Comptroller's Office during the year. No serious irregularities are reported to have been observed. A sum of Rs. 181-2-10 being the octroi and mohatarfa collected in the Mirle Minor Municipality is reported to have been misappropriated by the Bill Collector who has absconded. The Bill Collector in Channapatna Town misappropriated a sum of Rs. 87. The amount was made good by the official concerned, who has since been dismissed.

Government regret to observe that there has been still much delay in the disposal of audit notes and objection statements. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to issue definite instructions to the Presidents of all municipal councils to bring to disposal all the pending audit notes of previous years before the close of this year. Action taken should be mentioned in the Administration Reports of the Municipalities for the current year.

16. *Inspections.*—The Deputy Commissioners of Districts inspected all the municipal offices in their districts and issued necessary instructions for the rectification of the defects noticed by them. The Revenue Sub-Division Officers of Mysore, Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts are reported to have inspected the Minor Municipalities in their jurisdiction. The Deputy Commissioners of other districts are requested to instruct the Revenue Sub-Division Officers to inspect similarly all the municipalities in their charge.

17. *General.*—The levy of octroi on petrol was abolished. Government have taken power to transfer officials from one local body to another and to appoint Chief Officers in Town Municipalities. His Highness the Maharaja was graciously pleased to visit Chitaldrug, Jagalur, Challakere and Hiriyur Towns. Loyal Addresses of Welcome were presented by the Chitaldrug Town Municipal Council and the Jagalur Minor Municipal Council.

It is gratifying to note that the members of municipal councils evinced interest in the administration of municipal affairs and formulated several schemes intended to provide the citizens with larger amenities. The work was, however, hampered for want of funds. Government trust that the municipal councils will devote special attention to the collection of taxes—current and arrears—so that they may be in a better position to expand the beneficent activities of their administration.

P. H. KRISHNA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Local Self-Government Department.

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